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taste
of
Africa



Obama tops
world
news
list



Celebrating Kwanzaa



With the help of Jaku Konbit academy students in Ottawa, Ken Campbell lights Kinara candles on a table decorated with the symbols of Kwanzaa. Each of the candles represents one of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa. A new candle is lit for each day of the weeklong celebration from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. Scholar and social activist Ron Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 as the first African-American holiday.

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**Looking
back on the
past year**

Sports pg 19

**Halifax
highlights
from 2008**

Canada pg 10

**Snapshots
from coast
to coast**

Business pg 18

**Economic
storm may
get worse**

Cartoons pg 30

**Michael
de Adder's
top 'toons**

Your next Metro

The next
edition will
appear Jan. 2

**Boxing Day
Lobster
Specials!**

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**SHOPPERS
DRUG MART**



Feb. 4, 2008

After the parking garage at Peninsula Place at Inglis and Barrington streets flooded, some residents parked at a nearby Tim Hortons. Building residents had been given the go ahead by the donut shop only to find out the next day that Tim's had complained and the city came and ticketed the cars. **METRO HALIFAX**

3

Local



The quads are born - Jan. 24, 2008

Christa MacKinnon and her husband Joseph MacKinnon speak to the media following the birth of their children. Christa gave birth to the quads — Julia, Morah, Alexander and Benjamin — at 29 weeks' gestation by C-section.

METRO HALIFAX

Events that shaped Halifax in '08

A snapshot look at everything from Alexa's retirement to Zoom's cancelled flights

January

8th - Horne remembered for smile

Murder victim Jennifer Horne's mother wept loudly and uncontrollably during the slideshow depicting highlights of the 20-year-old's life at her funeral that morning.

More than 500 mourners filled two rooms and stood in the entrance to Atlantic Funeral Home on Main Street, many of them struggling to maintain their composure during the emotional, hour-long ceremony.

Desmond Maguire, 37, and his pregnant girlfriend Ashley Haley, 20, were charged with first-degree murder after Horne's body was found in their basement apartment on Lawrence Street in Dartmouth. They're still awaiting trial.

24th - Quadruplets born in Halifax

'A hole-in-one on a par-5': quadruplets' father. The recent birth in Halifax of quadruplets — identical twin girls and identical twin boys — was way more than a long shot.

"It was described as being a hole-in-one on a par-5, in a thunderstorm, while getting hit by lightning three times as they draw your 6-49 numbers," Joseph MacKinnon, the babies' father, said shortly after.

Indeed, the chance that both embryos would implant successfully, and then each divide, is about one in 70 million, he said.

Christa MacKinnon gave birth to the quads — Julia, Morah, Alexander and Benjamin — at 29 weeks' gestation by C-section Jan. 24, 2008

February

11th - In with the new(s)

The Daily News, serving



Pat Crause looks over the hundreds of stuffed animals at the makeshift memorial to 12-year-old Karissa Boudreau in Bridgewater on Feb. 19.

Halifax since 1974, shuts down. Metro Halifax launches Feb. 14.

15th - Boudreau murder

Bridgewater police announced Karissa Boudreau, age 12, who had been missing since Jan. 27, was murdered. Her mother, Penny Boudreau, was later charged in her daughter's death.

March

14th - Blast kills one

An explosion at the

O'Regans Kia body shop in Dartmouth was caused by flammable vapours. Kyle Hickey, 22, died the next morning as a result of injuries sustained in the blast.

April

3rd - Prisoner escapes from custody

Jermaine Carvery, 30, escaped from custody while being transported from the Burnside jail to the Victoria General hospital for day

surgery. But he never made it inside. Although he was in handcuffs and leg shackles, he got out of the leg irons and outran two correctional officers in the adjacent construction site. He remained on the lam until June.

May

8th - School lunch programs to be free

The education minister announced there is a such thing as a free lunch — she

banned lunch fees for parents of students who either walk or bus to school. Minister Karen Casey said she'd give the Halifax Regional School Board a year to figure out how to do it.

The Education Department has no plans to help the Halifax regional school board — currently the only board in the province that charges parents for lunch supervision — pay for it, a

spokesman said.

26th - Questions follow murder-suicide

Police confirmed that 75-year-old Roberta Jollimore was the victim of a murder-suicide by her son, Greg Jollimore, 52. The two were found dead in the Willow Street home they shared. Roberta Jollimore reportedly had Parkinson's disease, and her son had been caring for her. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



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GoodLife FITNESS for WOMEN

From a high note, to 'new low'

June

3rd - Alexa to retire

While friends and family members welled up with tears, Alexa McDonough remained composed as she announced the end of her 29-year political career.

She told a packed banquet hall at Halifax's Lord Nelson Hotel she intends to leave Ottawa come the next federal election.

"I feel very strongly that it is the right thing to do and this is the right time to do it," the NDP MP for Halifax told more than 100 media, politicians, family and friends.

4th - Torture nets teen 15 months

The third teenage girl convicted of the brutal beating of a woman behind a Dartmouth school was handed a 15-month sentence.

Describing her role in the two-hour torture of Kathie-Lee Bennet on Sept. 20 as "unforgivable," she vowed it would never happen again. Bennet was punched and burned with cigarettes. She was left with deep bruises and a fractured eye socket. The girl admitted she was present during the entire attack and that she kicked Bennet once.

10th - Capt. John Snyder

Metro Halifax spoke exclusively with Anne Snyder, mom of Capt. Jonathan Snyder, who died after falling down a deep well on night patrol in Kandahar.

He told her when his



NDP MP Alexa McDonough receives flowers from her granddaughter Abbie Jean, 6, after announcing she would not be running in the next federal election.

number's up, his number's up, she remembered.

"But to think," she said, her voice trembling, "a well?"

16th - Fire evacuees

Thousands of evacuees head home.

A massive brush fire forced around 5,000 people to evacuate homes in the Cole Harbour area. Two homes were destroyed.

17th - Courthouse tears, jeers

Dozens of angry Bridgewater residents crowded outside the town's courthouse, shouting and swearing at Penny Boudreau as police escorted her into a waiting cruiser.

"Murderer! Killer!" echoed through the riverside community's peaceful streets.

"You deserve what you did to your daughter," one woman yelled while Boudreau covered her face and hurried from the exit to the car.

About 100 people packed the Bridgewater provincial courtroom where the 33-year-old made her first appearance on charges of

first-degree murder in the death of her 12-year-old daughter, Karissa Boudreau.

July

8th - 'A whole new low'

Chebucto Road residents woke up to chainsaws at the crack of dawn as police and a construction crew swooped in at 5:30 a.m. to avoid confrontation.

By 7:30 a.m., workers had cut down the remaining six trees in the path of the city's controversial road-widening project.

"They sneak in like thieves in the night," said Carolyn King, a resident of Chebucto Road. "It's outrageous. That's just about as low as they can possibly go. Everything about this has been pretty damn low, but this takes it all to a whole new low."

The city told residents construction would take place between 7 a.m. and sunset, but decided to start work even earlier after a protest the week before.

More than 40 police officers, at times double the number of by-standers, showed up to the construction area.

15th - Flight attendants rally against cuts

Nearly 200 Air Canada flight attendants to be laid off in November, when the Halifax flight base was due to close, held a rally to protest the decision.

"Air Canada, what you're doing is wrong and it lacks fundamentally good business sense," said Lisa Vivian Anthony, a union representative.

Air Canada closed flight attendant bases in Halifax and Winnipeg as part of its plan to lay off 2,000 positions.

30th - Protesters make stand against racial profiling

Nathaniel Fells and William Drummond filed complaints with the Halifax Regional Police stating some of the department's officers assaulted them and called them the n-word on the night of Jun. 22 in downtown Digby.

Police eventually charged Drummond and three-year Halifax Regional Police officer Adam Stewart Whynott with causing a disturbance in relation to the fight. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



Halifax Regional Police officers arrest Gordon Olsen, who was protesting against treecutting along Chebucto Road on July 7 for the controversial road widening project.



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4.49lb

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Frozen Cooked Lobster Meat Claw & Knuckle

14.99 / 11.3 oz tin

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13.99 / 11.3 oz tin

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Elton John acknowledges his fans as he steps on to the stage on Friday, Sept. 26 for the first of two weekend shows at the Metro Centre. Sir Elton opened his set with his 1970 hit Your Song.

Rocket Man sends fans over the moon

August

1st - Police capture escapee after three-vehicle crash

A man who walked away from police headquarters was arrested by police after a crash in Dartmouth.

Raymond Gary Stroud, 25, escaped from a holding room at Gottingen Street police headquarters. Later that night, he allegedly dragged a police officer a short distance in a stolen car after the officer realized it was him.

18th - Bronze for N.S. rower

It was some wait but, man, was it ever worth it for those waiting for a Canadian Olympic medal. Nova Scotia fans got a particular treat when Shubenacadie rower Tracy Cameron won a bronze medal in women's double skulls. It was one of seven podium spots for Canada over the weekend.

"It's very exciting. The phone hasn't stopped ringing," said Pearle.

Cameron, Tracy's grandmother, who got up at 3 a.m. each day to watch Tracy race.

29th - Zoom cancels flights

Over 200 people were left stranded at Halifax Stanfield International Airport after discount carrier Zoom Airlines unexpectedly filed for bankruptcy and shut down.

It started when a Zoom flight was stalled in Halifax for seven hours on the way to Ottawa and then back to London. Needing a part, the flight was rescheduled and the 213 passengers were put up in hotels. In the morning they boarded the plane, then were sent off again with no explanation.

September

11th - Mitch loses in Idol upset

Theo Tams, a 23-year-old University of Lethbridge student, could not hold back tears when he learned he beat Mitch MacDonald, the 22-year-old carpenter from Port Hood, N.S., for the Idol title in the show.

The victory was an upset for MacDonald, who never placed in the bottom two or three during the show, and would have been the first Atlantic Canadian to win the competition.

18th - Boat flips

Eight people were thrown into Halifax Harbour when a controversial fire-fighting boat flipped on a test run.

The incident happened near the Dartmouth Coast Guard base, and a rescue operation was quickly scrambled, plucking the crew from the water. All were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Local boat builders reacted angrily when the 28-

foot California-built vessel won a fire-department tender.

26th - Rocket Man's fans are over the moon

Elton-mania hit fever pitch in Halifax with two sold-out shows in September.

"I'm going to be yelling, 'yeah,'" fan Janet Bate proclaimed loudly, leaving the decibel level just low enough as to save her big scream for Sir Elton himself.

"And if there's anybody in front of me taller, I'm probably going to stand on the chair. Unless I wear platform shoes like Elton John. Then I can get away with it."

Tickets for the shows went on sale on July 18 and were gone in under an hour.

October

2nd - RCMP to investigate immigration program

The RCMP were called in to investigate Nova Scotia's controversial immigration nominee program.

Under the program, immigrants paid \$130,000 for a fast-track into Canada, and a six-month middle management mentorship with a Nova Scotia company.

Auditor General, Jacques Lapointe says the program was a failure and was fraught with mentorships that never happened.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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The clock turned back to 1758 in downtown Halifax, all in the name of democracy. The full day of activities, which kicked off with a traditional Mi'kmaq smudging ceremony and military encampment and ended with a dazzling 18th-century ball, marked the 250th birthday of parliamentary democracy in Canada. **METRO HALIFAX**

Keeping a lid on drug war

October

7th - Slurs and stones mar N.S. elections

Spray paint, homophobic slurs, and more than a few rocks littered the campaign trail in Nova Scotia.

In Liberal MP Scott Brison's hometown of Cheverie, nine campaign signs were defaced Saturday night with the word "fag" written in pink spray paint. Brison is openly gay.

"This was a gutless bigot who doesn't have the courage to say (this) publicly," Brison said. "(They) vandalized property with hatred."

15th - Minority, take two

Canadians chose "slow and steady," giving Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Conservatives a tighter hold on minority government as the country braces for a possible economic downturn.

Harper was able to make vital gains in Ontario, including big victories in the 905 region, but missteps in Quebec kept his long-sought majority out of reach and left him facing a divided Parliament.

20th - New day, same mayor

Peter Kelly is still the mayor. Kelly lit sparklers in his campaign headquarters after beating the toughest competition he says he's had since ousting former mayor Walter Fitzgerald in 2000.

Kelly said he felt nervous in the early stages of the election when Sheila Fougere, whom he called an "incredible candidate," appeared to be in the lead.

Kelly won with 57,229 votes to Fougere's 41,107. David Boyd had 2,372 votes.

22nd - Council cans plan

Regional council rejected a plan to redevelop a



Jimmy Melvin Jr. is escorted out of Halifax Provincial Court in this file photo from 2006. Melvin was shot in the abdomen days after shots were fired at his father. Halifax police pegged it as a drug-related incident.

block of heritage buildings on the Halifax waterfront.

The vote was tied 9-9, which means a loss. Councilors debated Armour Group's Waterside Centre project for more than an hour.

The project would've preserved the facades of six buildings on the corner of Duke, Hollis and Upper Water Streets and put a six-storey glass tower on top. Developer Ben McCrea has appealed the decision to the Utility and Review Board.

31st - Report released in Gainey's death

Deciding to set sail with a storm approaching, and a lack of safety nets were just two of the factors contributing to Laura Gainey's death.

The final report by the

Transportation Safety Board examined how Gainey was swept off the deck of the Picton Castle on Dec. 8, 2006.

"We came to the conclusion that with strong safety measures in place, loss of life can be avoided," said Paul van den Berg, the investigator in charge.

November

6th - Disadvantaged hardest hit by 9.4 per cent power hike

Most Nova Scotia residents' power bills will go up 9.4 per cent on Jan. 1, 2009. The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board approved the rate hike for Nova Scotia Power customers in November.

Single mother Denise Boulter said she can hardly afford her power bill now and is already receiving

disconnection notices.

"There's nowhere for it to come out of," she said.

"It's difficult and they've made it more difficult."

17th - Woman killed by dump truck

Jaclyn Hennessey, 27, of Halifax, was pronounced dead at the scene after she was struck crossing Barrington and Sackville Streets just before 10:30 a.m.

The dump truck, driven by a 50-year-old man, was heading south on Barrington Street when it turned right onto Sackville Street and ran over Hennessey.

17th to 20th - Cops hope to 'keep a lid' on Spryfield drug war

Halifax Regional Police said they were looking to ensure "the lid stays on" a drug war in the Spryfield

area after several shots were fired in the parking lot of Jessy's Pizza on Herring Cove Road Nov. 17.

Reports indicate the intended victim was Jimmy Melvin Sr., who was released in 2006 after serving close to half of a 22-year sentence for drug trafficking and assaulting a peace officer.

Jason Hallett, an associate of Jimmy Melvin, Jr., was shot in the wrist Nov. 18 outside the IWK Health Centre. Later, on Dec. 4, Melvin, Jr. was shot in the abdomen outside a Ridgevalley Road apartment.

28th - Man dies in fire

An elderly man died when he was unable to escape his Lake Echo home during a vicious house fire. Firefighters were called

to 117 River Drive at 4:41 in the morning and found the home engulfed in flames.

"They started an offensive fire attack right away, so they took hose lines and entered the building to try to contain the fire and search for people," said fire department spokesman Capt. Dave Meldrum.

December

3rd - Surgeries under knife

Capital Health announced it will cut 1,000 surgeries from its schedule as one of many measures to make up a \$7-million deficit.

Reducing overtime, reusing medical equipment and fewer snacks on food trays are among other cost cutting steps being taken. The overall plan is to cut the \$7 million by the end of the fiscal year with minimal impact to patient care.

The single biggest saving — \$1.35-million — will come by cutting surgeries in half over three weeks.

5th - House on hiatus

Prime Minister Stephen Harper appealed to his political rivals for economic advice to defuse their outage over the Conservative leader's unprecedented shutdown of Parliament to avoid certain defeat.

Governor General Michaëlle Jean granted Harper's request to prorogue Parliament, sparing him from a confidence vote — and defeat for his Conservatives.

The Conservative leader acknowledged the economic demands of his political critics and promised the "first order of business" when Parliament resumes on Jan. 26 would be a budget the following day.

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Canada



The Ides of March

March brought in good news and bad for at least two people. Former media baron Conrad Black, left, began his six-year sentence on March 3 in a Florida prison for fraud and obstruction of justice. On March 15, Ontario resident Anna Falco, 53, won almost \$9 million at a casino, the largest-ever slot payout in Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

'08 ends on raucous political note

January

10 - Canadian communities that depend on a single industry to survive get some good news as Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces a billion-dollar package.

12 - The New Brunswick town of Bathurst is in mourning after seven teenagers, members of a school basketball team, and a teacher die as their van collides with a truck on an icy road.

16 - Canada's nuclear watchdog, Linda Keen, president of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, is fired after she accused Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn of interference.

21 - Canada's main stock exchange, the Toronto Stock Exchange, plunges more than 600 points. More plunges will follow later in the year.

22 - Former Liberal MP John Manley and his panel recommend Canadian Forces stay in Afghanistan indefinitely.

February

19 - British Columbia is the first in North America to implement a full-fledged carbon tax.

27 - Nortel Networks, once the darling of the stock market, sheds 2,100 more jobs and exports 1,000 more to countries with lower labour costs.

March

3 - A young Canadian man, Mohammed Kohail, gets the death sentence in Saudi Arabia after a schoolyard brawl results in the death of one person.

13 - It's official. Canada will stay in Afghanistan until 2011 after Parliament votes to extend the military mission by two years.

7 - Louise Arbour, a former Canadian Supreme Court justice, steps down from her position as UN human rights high commissioner.

29 - The Book Room in Halifax, shuts its doors for the last time after 169 years. It was Canada's oldest bookstore.

April

3 - A red cedar tree that has stood in Vancouver's Stanley Park for a thousand years loses its battle for survival when park

board commissioners vote to cut the tree down after it was damaged in storm.

18 - Canada bans chemical bisphenol A, found in plastic products such as baby and water bottles.

10 - The Canadarm will still be Canadian after Industry Canada derails a plan to sell the company that owns its rights to an American defence firm for \$1.3-billion.

12 - Canada was accused of "an act of war" after the coast guard seized an anti-sealing ship owned by Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

22 - Robert Baltovich is found not guilty of murdering his girlfriend, Elizabeth Bain, after the Toronto native served eight years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

28 - Early warnings of the auto slowdown sees General Motors cutting 3,500 jobs in truck and SUV plants in North America, including 1,000 in Ontario's motor city Oshawa.

May

1 - You have to be at least 16 years old to have sex after the legal age is raised to 16 from 14.

13 - A student minding his own business on the ground died when a helicopter crashed down on him in Cranbrook, B.C. The three passengers on board also died.

16 - Ottawa unveils Canada's highest honour for military valour — the Canadian Victoria Cross.

17 - The Queen's eldest grandson, Peter Phillips, marries Canadian Autumn Kelly at Windsor Castle in England.

26 - Canada's titillating scandal reaches its climax with Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier's resignation over a security breach involving classified documents left in his former girlfriend's apartment. But Canadians are forgiving and Bernier kept his seat in the federal election later in the year.

June

3 - General Motors closes its truck plant in Oshawa, Ont., and three other factories in North America as the auto crisis grows.

9 - A familiar tune for years is silenced after CBC loses the rights to



Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Dec. 4 that Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean approved his recommendation to prorogue Parliament.

Hockey Night in Canada theme song to CTV as talks break down between its composer and CBC.

16 - Ottawa lists The World Tamil Movement as a terrorist organization.

17 - The rising cost of fuel prompts Air Canada to look at cutting 2,000 jobs.

19 - Frank Dunn, the former chief executive of Nortel Networks, and other senior officers charged with fraud by the RCMP.

July

1 - Protests pour in after abortion rights activist Dr. Henry Morgentaler is appointed to Order of Canada.

5 - Calgary lays claim to another big one after the biggest mosque to be built in Canada opens in the city.

7 - Steven Truscott, wrongfully convicted of the murder of a schoolmate, gets \$6.5 million as compensation from the Ontario government after he spent nearly five decades trying to clear his name.

8 - The long-time face of the Canadian Auto Workers union, Buzz Hargrove, announces he will step down.

16 - Canada's oldest company is no longer truly Canadian after New York-based NRDC Equity Partners buys Hudson's Bay Co., the second time it has changed hands in less than three years.

20 - Quebec sovereigntists are not amused with



Liberal leadership candidates Bob Rae, right, and Michael Ignatieff talk to reporters on Parliament Hill in Ottawa Dec. 1. Rae stepped aside to allow Ignatieff to take over the top spot.

former Beatle Paul McCartney giving a free concert to mark Quebec City's 400th anniversary.

August

15 - Christopher Paul Neil, 33, of Maple Ridge, B.C., gets three years in Thai prison for sexually abusing 13-year-old boy.

18 - Low-speed electric cars cleared to move on public roads in the Victoria suburb of Oak Bay — the first municipality in Canada to legalize the vehicles.

24 - Canada wins 18 medals at the end of the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

28 - Hundreds of passengers are stranded and left to scuffle to find a way home after Ottawa-based Zoom Airlines files for bankruptcy protection.

September

7 - Prime Minister Stephen Harper calls general election for Oct. 14.

25 - A 20-year-old Ontario man is convicted of conspiring to bomb Parliament Hill, RCMP headquarters and nuclear power plants.

26 - The criminal justice system failed David Milgaard, concludes a commission of inquiry. It recommends the federal government create an independent body to review wrongful conviction allegations.

October

6 - \$100 billion in value of stocks are wiped out on the Toronto Stock Exchange as falling oil prices and fears of global recession

spook investors.

9 - A member of the Snowbirds aerobatic team is one of two Canadian Forces personnel killed in a jet crash in southwest Saskatchewan.

11 - CBC's Hockey Night in Canada gets a new anthem. Canadian Gold by Colin Oberst, an elementary school teacher from Beaumont, Alta., is voted by viewers as best pick.

14 - Stephen Harper's Conservatives return to power with a strengthened minority in the federal election.

28 - Barenaked Ladies frontman Steven Page gets a reprieve after a New York state judge says cocaine possession charges laid in July will be dropped if Page stays gets drug treatment and stays clean.

29 - Momin Khawaja of Ottawa is found guilty of being part of a plot to bomb targets in Britain.

November

8 - Kidnapped CBC reporter Melissa Fung is released by Afghan insurgents after 28 days in captivity.

22 - Prime Minister Stephen Harper signs a tentative free-trade agreement with Colombia.

27 - Harper's finance minister presents what turns out to be a turning-point mid-term economic statement — but not exactly the kind the Tories wanted. It was immediately rejected by the opposition as inadequate and partisan.

December

1 - The Liberals and the NDP, with Bloc Québécois support, agree to form coalition government if the Conservative minority government falls.

5 - Canada reaches a grim milestone in Afghanistan with the death of its 100th soldier.

4 - Parliament is suspended until late January as Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean bows to the prime minister's wishes.

9 - The Liberal party temporarily resolves its leadership issues as Michael Ignatieff remains the sole candidate to be the party's leader after rival Bob Rae withdraws from the contest.

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World



April 7, 2008

The Olympic torch is snuffed out by organizers in Paris as anti-China protests plague the global torch run. Two days later the Olympic torch is forced to be rerouted away from thousands of pro-Tibet demonstrators in San Francisco.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Obama makes American history

A rundown of world events that topped news in 2008

January

18 - U.S. President George W. Bush gives his stamp of approval on a \$100-billion stimulus package in an effort to prevent recession and control the damage caused by the housing crisis. The mess hammers banks, consumers and investors in effects that are felt all year long.

21 - Investor anxiety over prospects of a U.S. and global recession sends stock prices crashing around the globe. The Toronto Stock Exchange falls more than 600 points.

February

5 - The U.S. southern states are hammered by tornadoes killing at least 55 people.

11 - U.S. military prosecutors charge six detainees in connection with 9-11 attacks. They ask to impose the death penalty.

12 - GM Motors sets a record for largest ever loss by an automotive company by reporting a \$38.7 billion annual loss.

17 - Kosovo declares its independence from Serbia.

19 - Cuban leader Fidel Castro ends the longest rule in the world by a head of government as he resigns as president after 49 years.

28 - In a bid to end weeks of election-related violence, rival Kenyan leaders Mwai Kibaki and Raila



U.S. President-elect Senator Barack Obama waves as he arrives on stage during his election night rally in Chicago Nov. 4, 2008.

Odinga sign a power-sharing agreement. The clashes killed near 1,000 people.

March

7 - Louise Arbour, a former Canadian Supreme Court justice, steps down as the U.N. human rights

high commissioner.

12 - New York state Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigns amid allegations he used taxpayer

dollars for the services of a high-priced prostitution ring.

13 - The price of gold hits

a record high of \$1,000.

14 - 16 people are killed in Tibet during protests against Chinese rule. The protests are led by Buddhist monks.

16 - U.S. investment bank Bear Stearns is purchased by JPMorgan Chase for a price of \$236.2 million. It is a stunning collapse for one of the world's largest investment banks.

22 - The U.S. military death toll in Iraq reaches 4,000.

24 - The country of Bhutan holds its first ever elections and becomes the world's newest democracy.

25 - Yousuf Raza Gilani is sworn in as new prime minister of Pakistan.

29 - The first round of results from Zimbabwe's presidential and parliamentary elections is split between President Robert Mugabe and the opposition party.

April

2 - Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern steps down.

8 - South Korea's sends its first astronaut to the International Space Station in a Russian capsule.

9 - The Olympic torch is forced to be rerouted away from thousands of pro-Tibet demonstrators in San Francisco.

14 - Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's party wins majority in the Italian elections.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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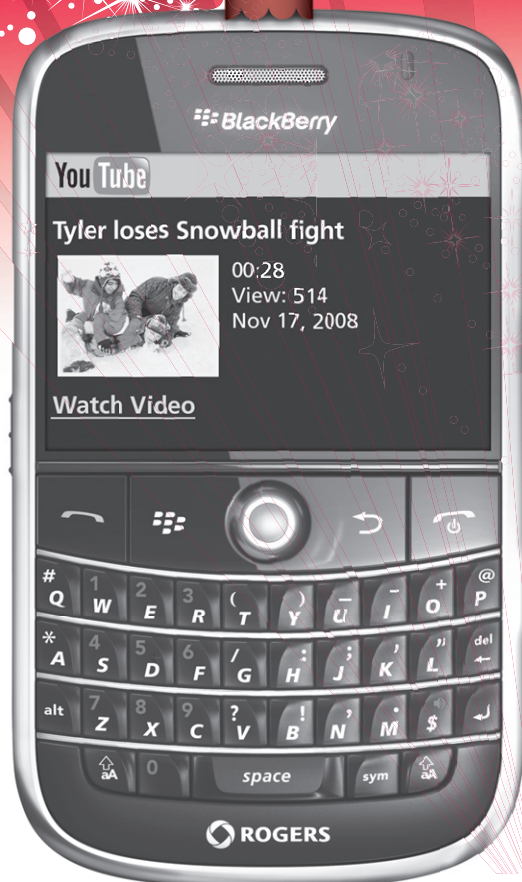
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Cyclone Nargis kills 134,000 in Myanmar

A rundown of world events that topped news in 2008

April

15 - The U.S. welcomes Pope Benedict as he arrives in Washington for his first papal visit to America.

20 - Ending 60 years of single-party rule in

Paraguay, former bishop Fernando Lugo is elected president.

27 - The Taliban attack a military parade in Kabul, Afghanistan. President Hamid Karzai and digni-

taries, including the Canadian ambassador, escape uninjured.

May

3 - More than 134,000 people are killed in southwestern Myanmar as cyclone Nargis smashes into the country.

8 - Dmitry Medvedev is sworn in as Russia's new president. Vladimir Putin is confirmed as Russia's



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A flooded village is seen in this aerial view near an airport in Yangon on May 5, 2008, after Cyclone Nargis slammed into Myanmar's main city killing more than 134,000 people.

prime minister, a day after he appoints Medvedev.

12 - Southwestern China is rocked by a massive earthquake that kills 80,000 people.

14 - The United States lists polar bears as a threatened species.

25 - The Phoenix Mars Lander lands on Mars as it begins its search for water residue on the red planet.

28 - Nepal declares itself a republic, abolishing 239-year-old monarchy.

29 - The Vatican issues a decree against ordaining women.

June

1 - Macedonian prime minister Nikola Gruevski is re-elected after a violence-marred parliament

tary election.

12 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules that foreign detainees held at Guantanamo Bay have rights under the American Constitution. The ruling surrounds their right to challenge their detention in U.S. civilian courts.

12 - Negotiators from Taiwan and China open their first formal talks in almost a decade.

13 - In daring prison break, over 1,100 inmates, including 400 Taliban, escape from detention in Kandahar.

26 - U.S. President Bush announces he will remove North Korea from a terrorism blacklist after it provides a declaration of its

nuclear capabilities

27 - In a move to focus on his philanthropic efforts, Bill Gates retires from day-to-day duties at Microsoft.

29 - Robert Mugabe is sworn in as president of Zimbabwe. The run-off election is boycotted by the opposition and condemned by the international community.

July

2 - Fifteen hostages are freed when Colombian military agents raid a rebel group holding them in the jungle.

24 - Ford reports a \$8.7 billion second quarter loss. It is the car company's largest quarterly loss in history. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**

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Fidel Castro ends historic reign

July

29 - The U.S. House of Representatives issues an apology to black Americans for wrongs committed against them and their ancestors ranging from slavery to segregation.

30 - GM announces a 15 per cent cut to its U.S. and Canadian salaried workforce.

31 - Imperial Tobacco and Rothmans Benson & Hedges admit to

involvement in cigarette smuggling schemes in the 1980s and '90s. The tobacco giants agree to pay up to \$1.15 billion in fines and civilian pay outs.

August

6 - Salim Hamdan, Osama bin Laden's former driver, is found guilty of terrorism. It is the first to come through the U.S. military tribunal process at Guantanamo Bay.

8 - Russian tanks roll in-

to South Ossetia after Georgian forces attempt to recapture the region.

20 - U.S. and Poland sign a deal to place a U.S. missile defence base in Poland. Russia voices its objection and accuses the U.S. of trying to extend its military influence in the region.

September

7 - Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are taken over by the U.S. government as it attempts to ease the finan-

cial crisis related to house price collapse.

16 - The American government is forced to provide an \$85 billion emergency loan to rescue AIG, one of the world's largest insurance companies.

October

14 - U.S. President George W. Bush announces a \$250-billion plan to buy shares in U.S. banks. It is the biggest bailout of the country's banks since the



STUDIOS REVOLUTION/REUTERS

Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro stepped down this year — ending his 40-year reign.

Depression.

29 - An earthquake hits southwestern Pakistan killing more than 200 people and leaving 15,000 homeless.

November

4 - Barack Obama wins the U.S. presidency in a landslide victory. He becomes the first African-American president in U.S. history.

16 - A Saudi oil tanker is hijacked by pirates off the coast of Kenya. It is believed the tanker was carrying \$100 million in cargo.

17 - Citibank cuts 15 per cent of its workforce. 50,000 jobs are eliminated.

26 - Terrorist attacks in Mumbai leave India in mourning. The gunmen launch attacks on tourist sites, a crowded train station and two luxury hotels killing nearly 200 people.

26 - The world's oldest person, Edna Parker, dies in Shelbyville, Ind., aged

115 years and 220 days.

December

4 - Zimbabwe declares a national emergency over a cholera epidemic and the collapse of its health-care system.

5 - O.J. Simpson is sentenced to 33 years in prison for kidnapping and robbing two sports memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a hotel.

6 - A teenage boy is shot dead by Greek police in a district of central Athens long associated with lawlessness and drug abuse. The boy's death sparks riots across Greece for several weeks.

19 - U.S. President George W. Bush tosses a \$17.4 billion government lifeline to GM and Chrysler. The move is intended to ensure the automakers survival and prevent another blow to his legacy.

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Papermaker AbitibiBowater Inc. is fighting plans by Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams to expropriate Abitibi's dams in Newfoundland, warning it will file suit under the North American Free Trade Agreement. **REUTERS**

Business



Wall Street's biggest fraud?

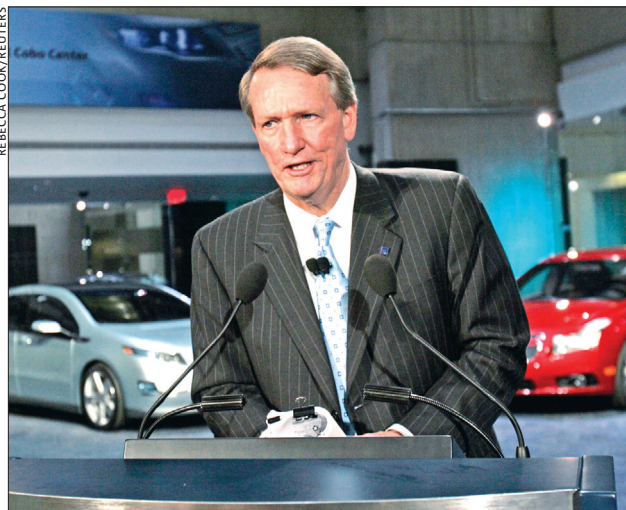
Money manager and former Nasdaq stock market chairman Bernard Madoff, 70, was arrested and charged on Dec. 11 with securities fraud. Prosecutors say he confessed to running up \$50 billion in losses through his Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities firm in what would be one of Wall Street's biggest frauds.

REUTERS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Economic tsunami

U.S. housing crisis let loose tidal wave of financial woes



General Motors chief executive Rick Wagoner speaks to media in Detroit Dec. 19 after U.S. President George W. Bush offered a \$17.4 billion government lifeline to ailing automakers.

Take a deep breath and brace yourself. As bad as 2008 was for financial turmoil from the average consumer to the mightiest of corporations around the world — forecasts are for an even gloomier outlook in 2009.

It means that the average Canadian will face more financial struggles in 2009. Predictions range from 150-to -200,000 more

people losing their jobs as the economic recession gets worse.

Looking back to earlier this year, there were several analysts on several TV shows in Canada and the U.S. who warned what was likely around the corner for world economies if things didn't get fixed. Truth is the financial downturn was so overwhelming that the inevit-

able "R" word was a case of not if, but how soon a recession would arrive.

With financial bailouts in the trillions around the word becoming a necessity to bail out banks and the auto industry, and other industries lining up looking for assistance, where does it all end? No one knows.

As the US recession wors-

ens almost every day, Canada will have to deal with a weaker domestic demand from its largest client and partner. Furthermore, a very moderate growth of the economy is expected in 2009.

According to the Laurentian

Bank's economic and financial outlook for 2009, interest rates in Canada should remain very low in 2009, and the Canadian dollar is expected to trade between 0.80 and 0.85 US during the year.

Laurentian stated that although the recession here is likely to be less severe than south of the border, nonetheless, Canada's labour market is showing some cracks. Total employment fell by a hefty 70,600 in November. The unemployment rate edged up from 6.2 per cent to 6.3 per cent as many Canadians just threw in the towel and stopped looking for a job amid the financial turmoil and economic recession.

Laurentian forecasts economic activity to contract

by 0.5 per cent in Canada in 2009.

Exports, imports, residential construction, and business investment are all expected to pull back. Employment should dip slightly in 2009, while the unemployment rate should increase modestly, to approximately 7 per

cent. Amid economic uncertainties, households will be more prudent and ease the pedal on spending.

Where did all this disaster start? Look to the U.S., where their housing crisis, now its third year, pushed the country into a consumer-led recession officially

begun in December 2007. The slump in the real estate sector also spawned a worldwide financial crisis, which grew worse in the second half of 2008, dragging the other blocks of industrialized nations into recession as well.

According to The National Bank Financial Group team of economists in Canada, the U.S. recession should last until mid-2009, that is, 18 to 20 months in all, which would make it the second longest in 80 years. This unusual duration is due to the fact that U.S. households must reduce their indebtedness significantly in the face of an employment market that has shed almost two million jobs to date.

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A sign in Toronto shows the Toronto Stock Exchange's main index at its lowest level in nearly five years on Nov. 20.

Avery muzzled

Former Cole Harbour resident Sean Avery's, right, tenure with the Dallas Stars came to an unceremonious end in December after making lewd remarks regarding two of his ex-girlfriends who are currently dating other NHL players. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



19

Sports

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Attention getter

Paraguayan javelin thrower Leryn Franco became an Internet sensation during the Beijing Olympics thanks in part to her side career as a fashion model and rumoured romance with Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic. In Beijing, Franco threw 15 metres short of her personal record, finishing 51st overall. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Halifax hosts the World

IIHF world championships the highlight of an eventful year in local sports

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



The top 10 stories in Halifax sports for 2008.

1. HALIFAX HOSTS IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

More than 200,000 fans attended 25 games at the Metro Centre in May for one of the biggest sporting events ever held east of Montreal. Hockey ruled the city as Canada went on a dominating 7-0 run before shifting to Quebec City for the playoffs and losing to Russia in the gold-medal game.

2. MARCHAND WINS GOLD AT WORLD JUNIOR

The Hammonds Plains native became the first Nova Scotian to win two gold medals at the world junior hockey championship in the Czech Republic in January. He scored the game-winner in the quarter-final and a goal and an assist in both the semifinal and final to finish second in team scoring.

3. MOOSEHEADS MELTDOWN

The Halifax Mooseheads were blessed with world-class talent and were built to win the first QMJHL title in franchise history. But the individual talent never meshed as a true team, and their season ended in a shocking embarrassment, swept by the Gatineau Olympiques in

the QMJHL semifinals.

4. RAINMEN GET OFF THE GROUND

The Halifax Rainmen appear here to stay after averaging crowds of almost 1,800 in 18 home games in the American Basketball Association in 2007-08. They ditched the ABA in March and ended up in the more stable Premier Basketball League, where they appear poised for more growth in 2009.

5. HALIFAX CITY STRIKES GOLD

Halifax City Salty's won gold at the Jubilee Trophy Canadian senior women's soccer championship in St. John's, N.L., in October. Salty's persevered, not even predicted to win the province, let alone win a national title, after struggling through the regular season with a sub-.500 record.

6. HALIFAX SENDS FIVE TO OLYMPICS

Although they came away without medals, five Halifax-area athletes attended the Beijing Olympics. They were: Waverley kayaker Karen Furneaux; Dartmouth canoeist Andrew Russell; East Jeddore sprinter Adrienne Power; Fall River gymnast David Kikuchi; and Halifax sailor Oliver Bone.

7. HEC CRIGHTON CAREER ON HOLD



Canada's Derek Roy celebrates his third goal of the game against Norway during the third period of their quarter-final game at the 2008 IIHF World Hockey Championships at the Metro Centre in Halifax, May 14, 2008. Russia defeated Canada 5-4 in overtime in the championship game.

The Saint Mary's Huskies' season hinged on the health of university foot-

ball's finest player, 2007 Hec Crighton winner Erik Glavic. But the star quar-

terback never recovered from major knee surgery and missed almost the en-

tire season, while the Huskies fell short of a return trip to the Vanier Cup.

8. FINAL 8 COMING HOME

The Final 8 Canadian university men's basketball championship left Halifax in March after a 24-year run at the Metro Centre, but Atlantic University Sport's bid to bring it back for a belated 25th anniversary succeeded in December. The Final 8 will return to the Metro Centre in 2011 and 2012.

9. CROSBY'S PLAYOFF RUN

Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby tied Conn Smythe winner Henrik Zetterberg for the scoring lead in the NHL playoffs, despite battling some nagging injuries. He led his Pittsburgh Penguins to the Stanley Cup Final, where they ultimately fell short in six games to the powerful Detroit Red Wings.

10. THE RISE OF COLLEY AND EZURIKE

East Preston's Justine Colley (basketball) and Lower Sackville's Nkem Ezurike (soccer) became two of Canada's brightest young female athletes in 2008. Colley played a key role at an Americas qualifier to help Canada clinch a spot at the 2009 FIBA under-19 world championship, while Ezurike was the national youth team's top scorer at the FIFA under-17 World Cup.

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Manchester United's Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo, left, was named Yahoo! Canada's most searched athlete of 2008. He won the Golden Ball the award for Europe's top soccer player. Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby was third on the list. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Ronaldo most searchable

Moments in time

"The best thing about sports is the sense of community and shared emotion it can create." —Bob Costas

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



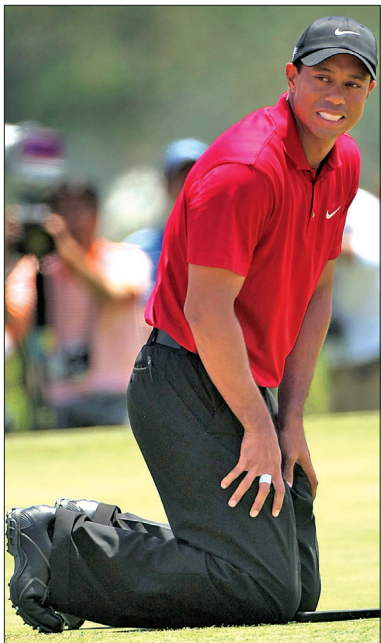
Beijing's dazzling Olympic opening ceremony served notice to the world.



Left: Priscilla Lopes-Schliep of Canada jumps into Australian Sally McLellan's arms after winning bronze in the women's 100-metre hurdles in Beijing.



Chantal Petitclerc won five gold medals, while breaking three world records, at the Paralympics in Beijing. She won the Lou Marsh Trophy for top Canadian athlete of the year.



Left: Despite an injured knee Tiger Woods claims the U.S. Open. Right: David Tyree's improbable fourth quarter catch set up the New York Giants' stunning 17-14 upset of previously unbeaten New England in the Super Bowl.

Right: The Philadelphia Phillies won the World Series over the Tampa Bay Rays. Below: Calgary fans welcome home the Stampeders after a Grey Cup victory over Montreal.



Top left: Usain Bolt dominated the track in Beijing. Top right: Kevin Garnett celebrates the Boston Celtics' first NBA title in 22 years.



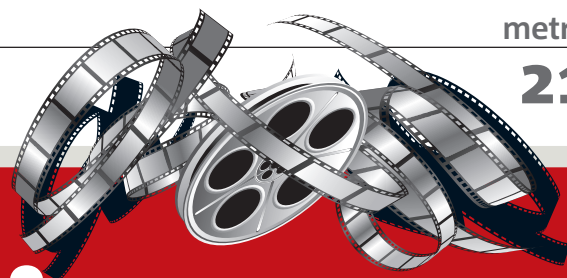
Left: Rafael Nadal collapses after winning a marathon seven-hour Wimbledon men's final against Roger Federer, a victory some call the greatest tennis match ever played.



Right: Kris Draper hoists the Stanley Cup for the Detroit Red Wings.



American Michael Phelps did what most people thought was impossible by claiming eight gold medals in the pool at the Beijing Olympics, breaking Mark Spitz's long-standing record. Phelps now has 14 gold medals, the most of any Olympian ever and he plans on returning in 2012.

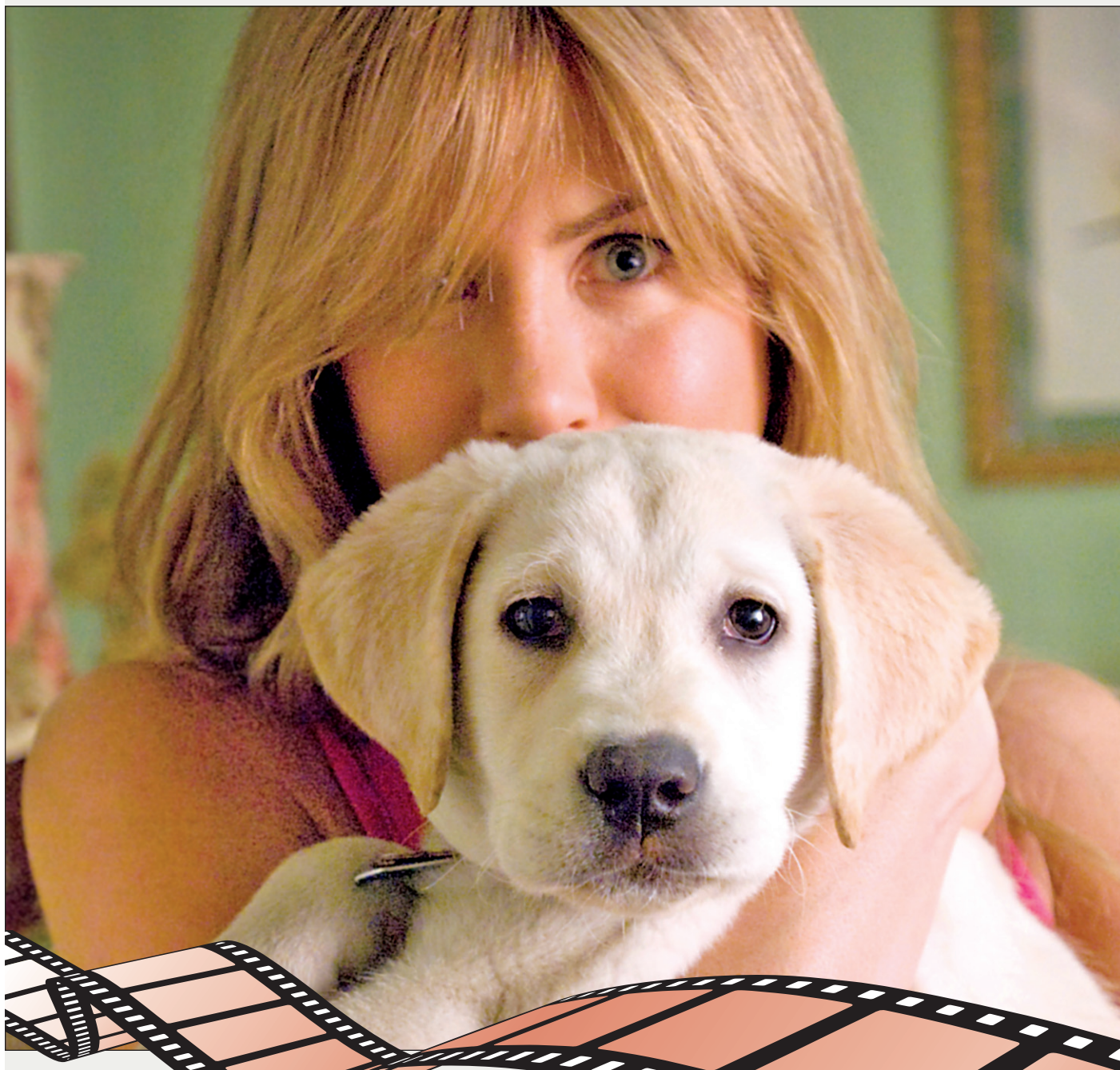


Movies & Entertainment

Movies

Cute and fluffy

Pg 23



Don't expect anything but straightforward entertainment from the new release *Marley and Me*, says our critic. The film chronicles the mayhem wreaked by a lovable lab named Marley, and stars Jennifer Aniston, above, and Owen Wilson.

Movies

Pg 22



Meryl Streep is at the centre of a stellar cast in *Doubt*.

Music

Pg 26



Singer-songwriter Leslie Feist plans some downtime.

Music

Pg 27

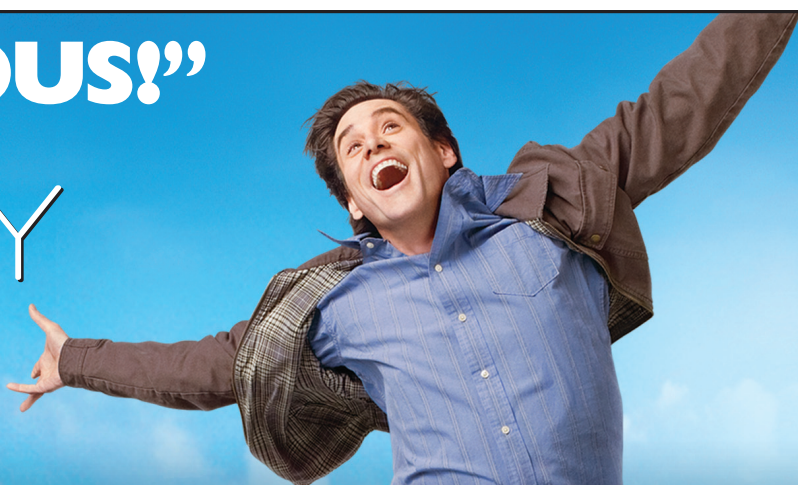


Alan Cross suggests what to buy with Christmas money.

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-Bonnie Laufer, TRIBUTE TV

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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

No Doubt about it — stunning

Doubt

Director: John Patrick Shanley
Stars: Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Meryl Streep could read the phone book on camera and make it compelling drama. So drop the legendary thespian in a Pulitzer Prize winning play adaptation and you're almost guaranteed stunning cinema.

Such is the case with *Doubt*, a slow-paced, but excellent tale about a private Catholic school under a dark shadow of wrongdoing in 1964.

Streep plays Sister Beauvier, the kind of strict principal who outlaws ballpoint pens, cough drops and dismisses Frosty the Snowman as a pagan song. After all, "He does come to life."

With one eye on her charges and the other on le-



Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman star in *Doubt*.



GoldenGlobes

BEST ACTRESS (DRAMA): Meryl Streep (*Doubt*)
 • *Doubt* has five nominations in total.

nient new pastor, Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), she warns her staff to be diligent. When an impressionable teacher (Amy Adams) notices odd behavior between Flynn and the school's first African-American pupil, Beauvier sets out to eject the priest regardless of evidence.

Adapted from his own play, filmmaker John Patrick Shanley succeeds at

creating one of the year's most intimate, character-driven dramas ripe with tension and subtext. Rich with a moral complexity that provides a great amount of gravitas, it's the film's small, but stellar cast that circumnavigates this masterpiece.

As mentioned, Streep is stunning and should nab her 15th Oscar nomination but one cannot overlook

On the web

- *Doubt* trailers, screen times and photos are available at metronews.ca/movies

Movies that take you beyond the mat

InFocus

Richard Crouse



mrchaos33@hotmail.com

The great irony of good wrestling movies is that real, honest-to-God wrestlers rarely ever star in them.

This week Mickey Rourke gives a tour-de-force performance in *The Wrestler* as Randy the Ram, an over-the-hill wrestler; a once famous athlete capable of packing Madison Square Gardens, now a raggedly collection of shin splits, aching bones and broken spirit that should earn him an Oscar nod.

Aha, you say. Rourke used to be a boxer. Isn't that the same thing? Well, according to director Darren Aronofsky not so much.

"It's easy to think it was easy for Mickey to do this

because of his experience in the ring but I think it was twice as hard because he had to unlearn everything," he said. "In boxing the whole game is to hide your emotions and moves."

"When you do a punch in wrestling you want people in the bleachers to see it happening three minutes before it comes. So for Mickey to ham it up like that when he was taught to move as a boxer was a real challenge."

Rourke is perfect for the role; his face looks like he's been beaten up by an angry plastic surgeon, and his slouching walk belies years of extreme physical abuse. But not all actors to play wrestling's "faces" and "heels" have been so well cast.

Flesh, a little known John Ford film from 1932, sees Wallace Beery — former silent movie and musical theater star — play a waiter-turned-wrestler who discovers his wife is having an affair. Even stranger casting than that was spindly Henry Winkler — *The Fonz* — as an unem-

ployed actor who becomes a wrestling star in the comedy *The One and Only*. Then there's *Blood & Guts* a 1978 film which sees aging wrestler Danny O'Neil, played by William Smith, wear a silver ten gallon top hat in the ring.

To get the real deal on wrestling check out *Beyond the Mat*, a documentary from comedy writer and wrestling fan Barry Blaustien. His behind the scenes look at the pro circuit and its stars works on an almost Shakespearean level, revealing the tragedy, rage, humor, violence, intrigue, hucksterism and real human stories of the sport.

It's a movie that should be placed alongside *Pumping Iron* and *When We Were Kings* as movies that uncover the private side of sports entertainment. We all know wrestling is fake, but after seeing *Beyond the Mat* it seems a little more real.

Richard Crouse is the author of *Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen* and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

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And the Oscar goes to ...

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will announce which films, actors and actresses are nominated for Oscars on the morning of Jan. 22. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Marley and Me is purely entertainment

Marley and Me**Director:** David Frankel**Stars:** Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston**Classification:** PG**Rating:** ●●●●

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada



Get out the tissues for Marley and Me: The film version has the same tear-jerking affects as the best-selling novel.

For those not familiar with journalist John Grogan's memoir chronicling his life with beloved Golden lab Marley, nothing much happens. It's the simple story of a family and a dog and the everyday challenges they face as they grow together.

At the opening, Owen Wilson as Grogan has just married his sweetheart Jenny (Jennifer Aniston). They move from chilly Michigan to Florida where both land staff writing jobs at competing newspapers. Life is



Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston star in Marley and Me.

good as their careers take off but soon enough, John begins to worry Jenny's biological clock might be ticking.

Quintessential-bachelor buddy Sebastian (Grey's Anatomy's Eric Dane) suggests a puppy might be enough to quench her motherly desires and John surprises Jenny with a trip to a breeder where they fall in love with a "clearance puppy". Marley is the one, chubby little sausage out of the pack whose price has

been knocked down for reasons that soon become clear.

He spends the next 14 years tearing apart the house, peeing on the floor, scattering dog food everywhere, chewing holes through the furniture, ripping down blinds and curtains, and generally wreaking havoc. When John is made columnist Marley's antics provide years of fodder and the story continues, happily, with naughty but lovable Marley at the

centre of it all as the couple adds three kids to their clan.

Marley and Me fits into that rare category of flicks that exists purely for the purpose of entertainment. It stays away from gratuitous violence and nudity; there are no vulgar jokes

delivered simply for shock value; and complicated turns and twists are kept out of the straightforward plot.

The conclusion is expected but well-directed by David Frankel (The Devil Wears Prada) and the story wraps up as a touching

love story between a man and his dog and the 14 years they spend together.

Aniston's performance is predictable: she plays the same wife, girlfriend, friend she always has. But Wilson plays a charmingly domesticated version of his usual kooky characters.

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Music

It's time out for Feist

Singer says she hasn't stopped touring for six years

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

Feist is taking a well-deserved break from superstardom. After a six-year whirlwind that saw the folk singer-songwriter from Calgary rise to international fame and acclaim, Leslie Feist plans on taking at least a half-year hiatus from music, letting her voice heal and regrouping for a possible third album.

But it has been a hell of a blitz. In that time Feist released the Juno Award-winning *Let It Die*, which went platinum in Canada

and gold in France, and *The Reminder* — a world-wide multi-platinum album that was both a Juno winner and Grammy nominee.

Single 1234 became ubiquitous on iPod commercials, shot to the top of many an international chart and was rated one of Time Magazine's best songs of 2007.

Add in a series of world tours, appearances on *Sesame Street* and *The Colbert Report* and you can see why a vacation might be justified.

"Six months, maybe more. I can't rightly say how long I'm going to take. Hopefully at some point my laryngitis will go away," she laughs.

"I've been touring for six years and *Let It Die* just duck-tailed right into *The Reminder*, and we recorded *The Reminder* on tour and I just haven't stopped. I just want to see what it's like to cook and sleep in and stuff."

"Six months, maybe more. I can't rightly say how long I'm going to take. Hopefully at some point my laryngitis will go away."

Leslie Feist

Yet Feist still works during her downtime, giving back to the community. She says this during a recent surprise appearance at a Toronto high school, when the school was presented with a MusiCounts Band Aid musical instrument grant for more than \$10,000.

"It's really great to be able to come in and see a part of a community that I normally never get to see," the sometime Broken Social Scene member said. "This is really important stuff that goes on in a high school, and I can just vaguely remember how

important it was when I was there."

In the meantime, you can get your Feist fix on Stephen Colbert's holiday DVD *A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift Of All!*, where she plays an angel taking the satirical pundit's telephone call to God.

"It was like getting invited back to the cool kids' table at the cafeteria to be invited twice to Colbert," she said.

"He's amazing. He's unparalleled. He's the best. I would do anything he asked, including putting on an angel costume."



Singer-songwriter Leslie Feist made a recent surprise appearance to present a high school with a MusiCounts Band Aid musical instrument grant for over \$10,000.

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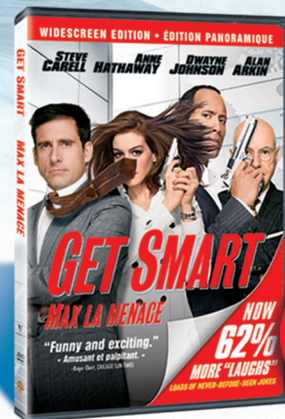
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The naked truth

Soap opera legend and Dancing with the Stars favorite Lisa Rinna is reportedly thinking about posing starkers for Playboy magazine. The 45-year-old mother of two told Extra she may agree to appear in the magazine. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

What to buy with that Christmas cash

If you're going to indulge, you may as well go whole hog

Sound**Check**

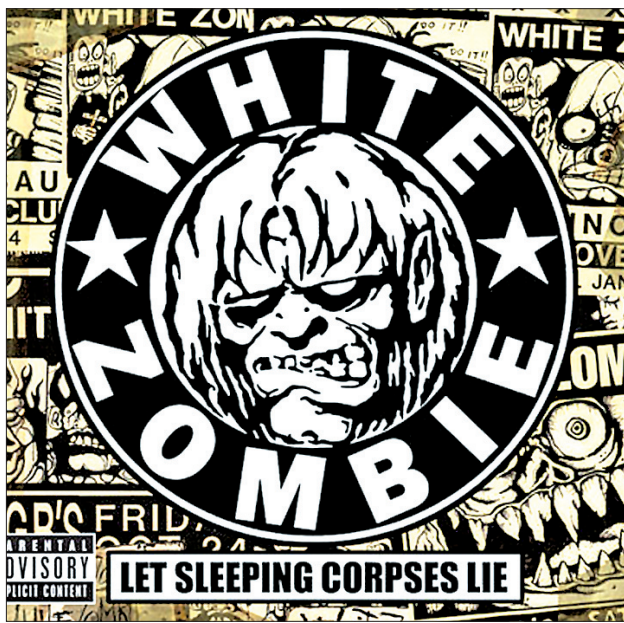
Since there's a good chance that you're reading this on your way to some kind of Boxing Day sale — the Canadian version of America's Black Friday shopping orgy — it's probably a good time to offer a list of ideas of where to invest Grandma's Christmas money.

For the undead metal fan:

Although White Zombie was subsumed into leader Rob Zombie's overall ambitions back in 1996, they've been resurrected (sorry) with a box set called Let Sleeping Corpses Lie, featuring five discs chronicling 64 studio recordings, 10 live performances and nine videos. Expect to spend around \$70.

For the Mama Mia freak:

For the life of me, I can't understand the enduring appeal of ABBA but with 400 million albums sold, who am I to judge? If you're late to the party, the fastest way to catch up is with the nine-disc collection called ABBA: The Albums. This means all eight



From left, Let Sleeping Corpses Lie, a five-disc box set from White Zombie; the 50th anniversary edition of Miles Davis' Kind of Blue, which includes outtakes and a version of the album on blue vinyl; and The Gonzo Tapes: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson, featuring six hours' worth of his recordings.

studio albums plus another disc filled with B-sides and rarities. That's another \$70.

For the wannabe jazz fan:

Jazz is an acquired taste for many people, so those who want to get into the scene need to tread carefully lest they be put off by the genre's complexities and nuances.

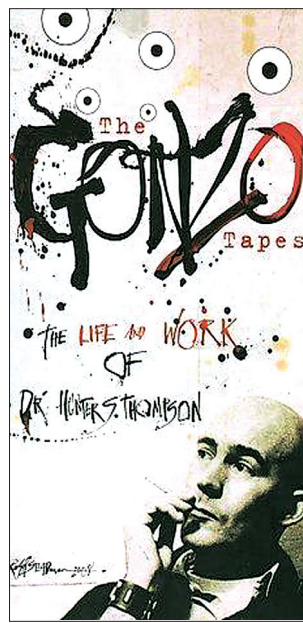
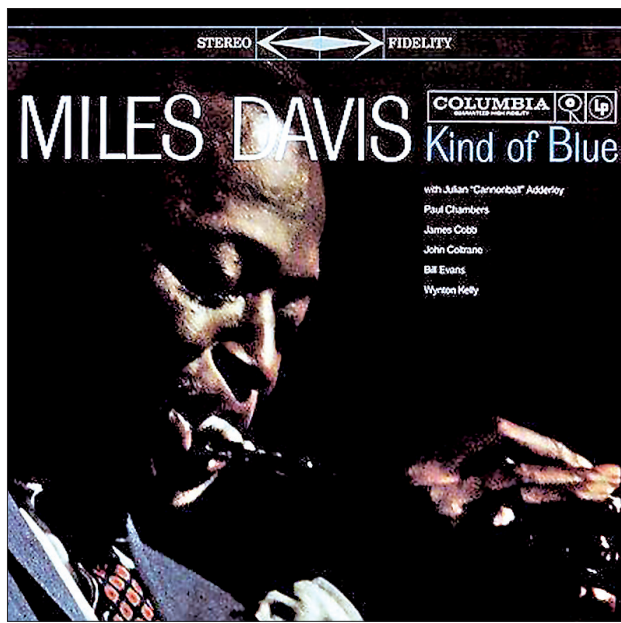
For my money, a great place to start is Miles Davis' classic, Kind of Blue, the best-selling jazz record of all time. Recorded in just two sessions in the spring of 1959, its brilliance is staggering. For

\$80, you get the 50th anniversary edition featuring outtakes, a version of the album on blue vinyl, a 60-page book and nearly 90 minutes of DVD footage.

For the gonzo in all of us:

Hunter S. Thompson may be gone, but while he was alive, he committed nearly everything to tape. Six hours of tequila-and-drugs stream-of-consciousness journalism is now available for \$45 on The Gonzo Tapes: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson.

For the make-believe rock star: Guitar Hero has come



out in six incarnations since it was launched in 2005, which translates to 22 million copies in the US alone. Then Rock Band upped the ante by introducing microphones and drum kits, bringing fami-

lies together in strange ways. Buying all the peripheral gear can get expensive, but with competition fiercer than ever — and with some people predicting that mania over music games has peaked

— this might be the best time to buy in or upgrade. Things start at about \$50.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

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Looking back on the year in television is hindered only slightly by the fact — repeated almost monthly since I began writing this column four years ago — that I don't really watch much television at all, if I can help it.

Certainly, I don't think I could bear writing about TV daily if I had to endure a steady diet of sitcoms, police procedurals, network reality programming and news every day.

The truth is that I rarely spend much time in the single-digit and lower reaches of the double-digit dial, which probably makes me sound like the typical TV critic snob who proselytizes endlessly for shows like *The Wire*, *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men*.

That said, I'd be lying if I said that *Mad Men* wasn't my favourite show, both this year and last, though even as I write this, I can anticipate the word "overrated" pattering back at me like hail on the roof of a ragtop.

For all of the critical love the show gets, it's rarely cracked two million in ratings, which



Think you had a rough year? In 2008, a TV biopic forced Metro columnist Rick McGinnis to begin thinking of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, the former British prime minister, as a hottie.

pretty much guarantees cancellation on network

TV, which might actually explain why increasingly

balkanized viewers have found refuge on cable,

"You're probably going to completely write me off when I tell you that my favourite TV show all year was ... (a) biopic on the young Margaret Thatcher."

where they might stand a chance of seeing two or even three seasons of their favourite show, or even seeing it come to a somewhat satisfying finale at its creator's behest.

You might even think that I'm a huge snob if I tell you that I'm looking forward to digesting *The Wire* at my leisure now that I have the complete box set, and that I'm looking forward to doing the same with *Breaking Bad* when it arrives in the new year, around the same time as the new *Battlestar Galactica* set.

Frankly, that's the way I end up watching most new TV these days, when I'm not downloading it from filesharing networks, or watching it on tiny 1½ by 2½ inch windows on my computer.

That's how I ended up watching most of *Architecture School*, a competition/home makeover reality show produced by the Sundance Channel, and so far unavailable on the Documentary Channel, its natural home here.

And you're probably going to completely write me off when I tell you that my favourite TV show all year was *The Long Walk To Finchley*, a 90-minute biopic on the young Margaret Thatcher I caught by chance while flipping the channels late one night.

Styled as a saucy, droll melodrama depicting the still-molten Iron Lady as a steely feminist battling the pooterish Tory party establishment to land a safe seat in parliament, it cast a palpably sexy young actress (Andrea Riseborough) as Thatcher, all husky alto, shapely legs and Bette Davis eyes.

It was such a refreshing take on politics — all but unimaginable here in Canada, God knows why — and prompted an unanticipated new likelihood that I will, quite against my better judgment, be imagining Baroness Thatcher as a babe. Damn you, television!

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Oscar documentary short list favours social issues

Werner Herzog has just had his Antarctica-set documentary *Encounters at the End of the World* named to the Academy's documentary feature category short list — the list from which the five Oscar nominees will be selected in January.

But the legendary German director still isn't sure why a reporter is calling him.

"The short list is pleasant news, but it isn't an event," he says. "My producers and distributors are enjoying it. A nomination — now, that always means something. But this is really a non-story, isn't it?"

Perhaps Herzog can afford to be blasé. He's been virtually ignored by the Academy throughout his long career, but this year,

his South Pole odyssey — a personal film with an environmental conscience — may be the only picture on the 2008 Oscar documentaries short list to land firmly on both sides of the Academy's perennial documentary divide.

It's a stereotype to say that Oscar rewards documentaries that call attention to important social issues, and privileges noble intentions and left-leaning political views over cinematic craft.

But it's also a stereotype with evidence to back it up.

Of the 15 features the Academy's documentary branch members are now being asked to screen over the holiday season, about 10 could be described as social-issue films, with

varying degrees of didactic intent.

Even within that category, there's tremendous variety: *Fuel*, a grassroots-marketed film about the biodiesel movement, has little in common with *Standard Operating Procedure*, 2004 Oscar winner Errol Morris' ruminative exploration of the Abu Gharib detainee-abuse photographs. (Whatever one makes of Morris' films, they certainly don't lack for artistry.)

Neither of those bears any similarity to *Trouble the Water*, a rip-roaring,

rough-and-ready Sundance Award winner about a poor African-

American couple surviving hurricane Katrina in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward.

One can further divide the issue-oriented flicks into those that seem special-

ly geared to the moment, in the vein of a recent Oscar winner featuring a former vice-president, and those that tackle documentary perennials like the death penalty (*At the Death House Door* from the *Hoop Dreams* (1994) team of Peter Gilbert and Steve James) or the Holo-

caust (*Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh*).

On this year's list, *Fuel* was one film that seemed to come out of nowhere, but as director Josh Tickell observes, "Everybody wants to be part of the green energy movement now." Tickell's inexpensively made, microdistributed film about turning grease and other waste products into diesel fuel no longer seems like a college-campus counter-cultural statement.

With *I.O.U.S.A.*, director Patrick Creadon's market timing was even more uncanny. When he started making a movie about America's debt crisis two years ago, people he talked to were baffled. "They'd tell me, 'What a dreadful topic!'" he says.

"Why would you want to make that movie?" Nobody asks those questions now.

Not everyone in the documentary world is happy to see the Oscar nomination process used as a soapbox for issues of the week.

"Documentary might be the most vital form in American film right now, and the Academy consistently ignores the best work and the most important trends," says Paul Sturtz, co-director of the True/False Film Festival, a prestigious docs-only event in Columbia, Mo.

"There seems to be this attitude that it doesn't need to be a good film if it's about an important subject — it automatically gets eight out of 10."

REUTERS

Feast day

On the sixth day of Kwanzaa, Kuumba (creativity), there is a great feast or Karamu. Some favourite dishes of the Karamu are stewed snapper, Congo rice and peas, fried chicken, baked potato pie, corn bread, calaloo and vegetable ital stew. **SECTION15.CA**

29

Food

The basic Joloff Rice recipe (with bacon or ham in place of chicken) is identical to, and probably the origin of, a dish called Red Rice in the Southeastern United States (and usually called Spanish Rice on the rest of the continent).

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EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Dishing up a taste of Africa

Get into the Kwanzaa spirit with a colourful chicken-and-rice entree

À la carte



Barb Holland

metronews.ca/alacarte

Kwanzaa is a unique African-American celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African-American people, their ancestors and culture.

Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili, has gained tremendous acceptance. Since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to be observed by millions of people worldwide.

When establishing Kwanzaa in 1966, Dr. Karenga included an additional "a" to the end of the spelling to reflect the difference between the African American celebration (Kwanzaa) and the Motherland spelling (kwanza).

The seven-day celebration from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 is based on the Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles), one for each day of the observance.

Joloff Chicken and Rice

Food is a part of any celebration. This well-known, colourful West African dish is often served on special occasions. I made this with parboiled (not instant) rice, but other long grain rice should work well. I did not find ground dried shrimps. Instead, add ½ tsp (2 ml) salt to the rice. Makes 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 2 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried thyme leaves
- pinch each salt and pepper

- 1 to 2 tbsp (15 -30 ml) vegetable oil
- 14 oz (398 ml) can diced tomatoes (or half a 28 oz/796 ml)
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) tomato paste
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cups (500 ml) chicken broth
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) ground dried shrimps or crayfish (optional)
- 1-1/2 cups (375 ml) long grain rice
- 1 fresh green chilli, seeded and finely chopped
- Fresh or dried thyme, to garnish

METHOD:

Rub chicken with garlic, thyme, salt and pepper. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in a large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Cook chicken (in batches) until browned on both sides; transfer to a plate, adding more oil if needed.

Add tomatoes, tomato paste and onion to pan. Cook over medium-high heat until tomatoes have thickened somewhat, about 5 minutes. Add broth and dried shrimps, if using, and bring to a boil.

Measure out 1 cup (250 ml) tomato cooking liquid. Add enough water to make

3 cups (750 ml) and pour over rice in a separate saucepan (add salt). Bring rice mixture to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed, 10 to 15 minutes. Set aside, covered to keep warm.

Meanwhile, add green chilli to remaining tomato cooking liquid. Add chicken to pan, covering chicken with sauce. Simmer until chicken is cooked through, about 15 minutes. Transfer chicken pieces to a warm serving plate, cover to keep warm. Increase heat on sauce to high and cook until nicely

thickened, about 5 minutes. Serve chicken with rice and sauce. Garnish with thyme.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.



Joloff Chicken and Rice is a colourful West African dish that's often served on special occasions.

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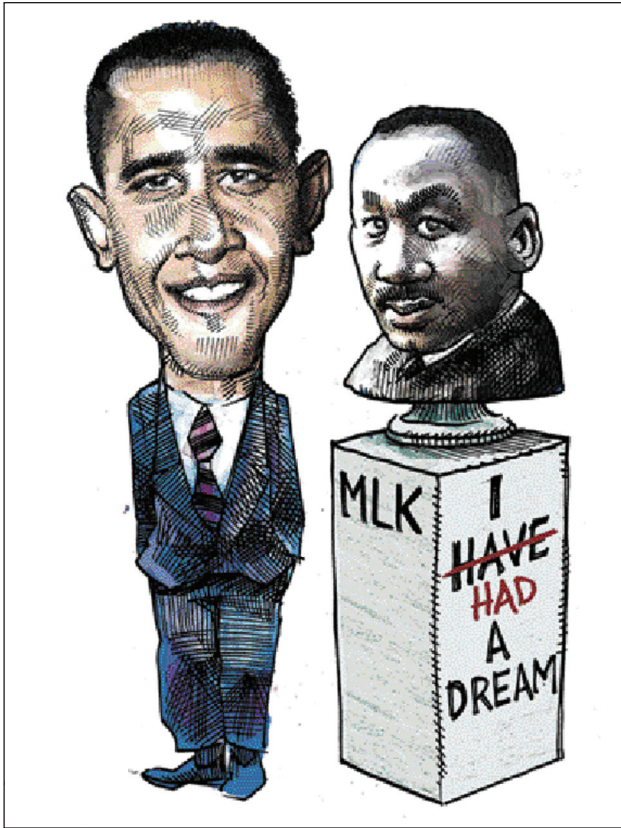
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Metro's Best Cartoons of 2008



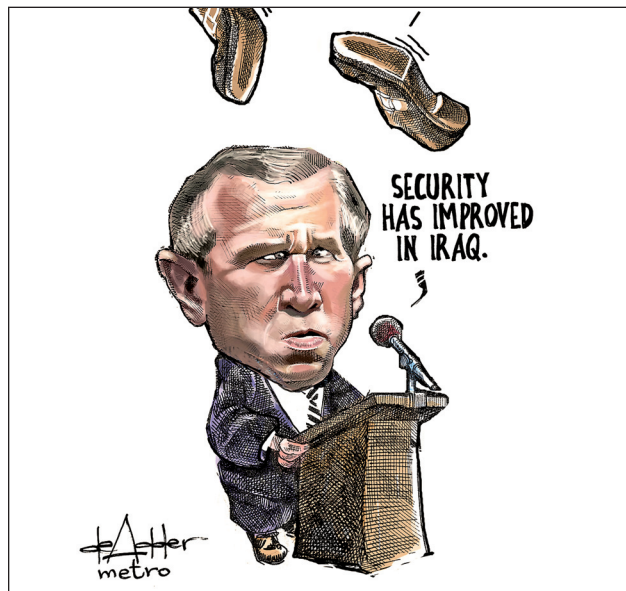
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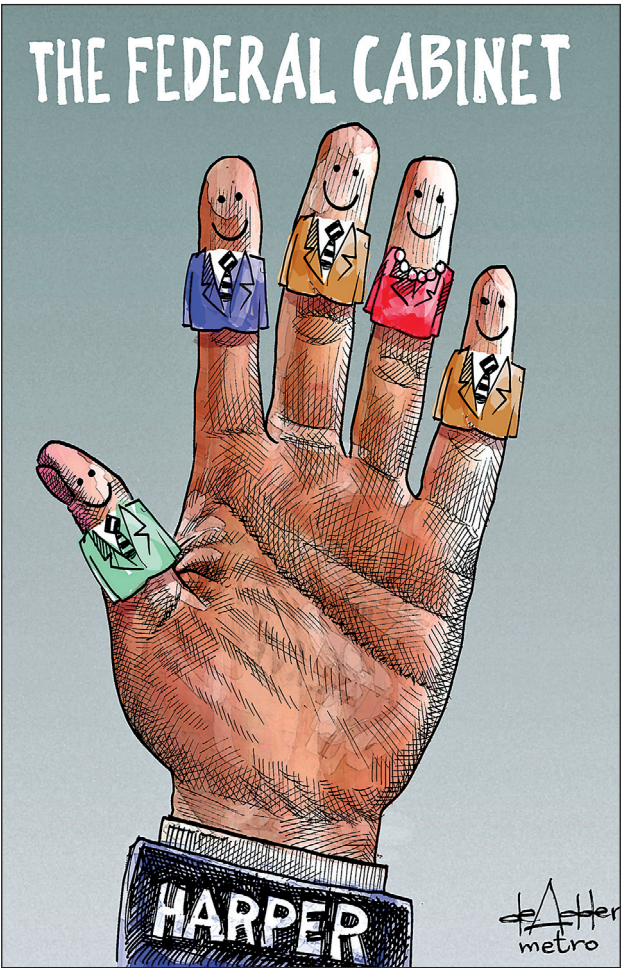
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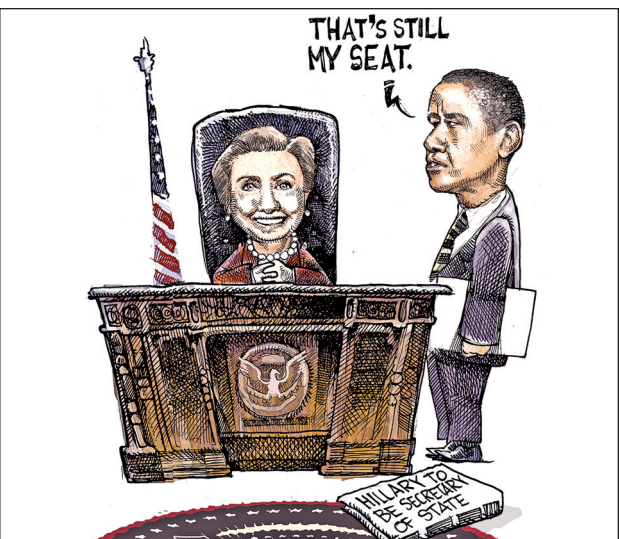
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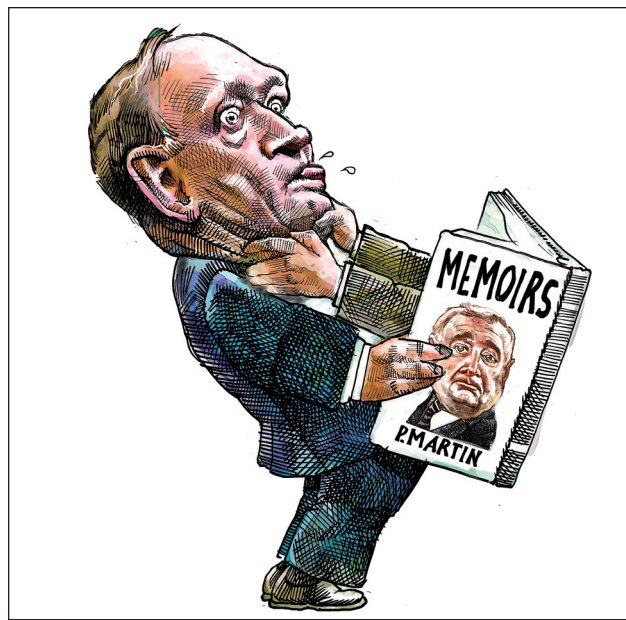
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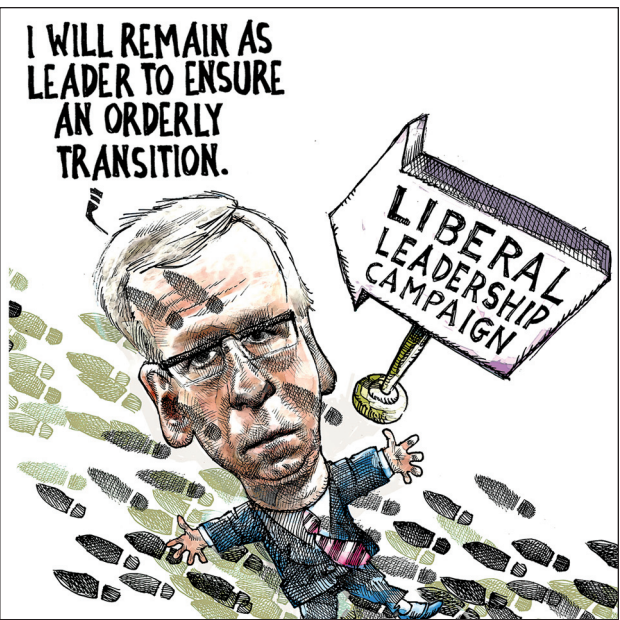
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